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which, indeed, from its unavoidably narrow scope, we cannot, perhaps, reasonably expect to be a liberal exposition of principles or theories of law, but rather a collection of circumstances arising out of the multifariousness of human affairs, in which it has been held that the defendant street railway company has or has not been guilty of the negligence which resulted in the plaintiff's injury. If fault is to be found with the book, it is on this score: it is too much in the nature of a compilation of abstracts of cases; but since there is but one test of liability,—namely, negligence,—this may be unavoidable, as has been already suggested.

It is evident that the book has been logically and systematically planned, and that it has been written in a thorough and painstaking manner. It is no exaggeration to say that thousands of decisions have been taken, analyzed, classified, and arranged, and given to the reader in a form convenient for ready reference and use, together with a full presentation of the facts, reasons upon which the decisions are based, and copious notes thereto. Not the least valuable part of the work are the chapters on "Pleading," "Presumptions," "Burden of Proof," "Evidence," "Elements and Measure of Damages," and other questions of practice.

The book may well be said to be an exhaustive and accurate treatment of "Street Railway Accident Law" and one which will justify the preparation of and will satisfy the demand which has existed for the preparation of a volume devoted exclusively to negligence cases against street railways.

F. H. S.

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ELEMENTS OF CORPORATION LAW. By JOSEPH C. FRANCE.  
Pp. xxi+499. Baltimore: M. Curlander. 1904.

This is a text-book of corporation law adapted primarily to the use of students, and has been prepared more especially for the use of those who expect to practise in the state of Maryland. The author states his aim as follows: "First, to present the underlying conceptions and something of the history of corporations; second, to indicate the leading views on important controverted questions; third, to deal, more at length, with the decisions of the United States Supreme Court and with the law of Maryland." Where the law of Maryland differs from that established by the weight of authority a note is made thereof. The book is a somewhat condensed presentation of a very large and complex subject, but is well proportioned and has the advantage of being concise. An appendix of forms containing form of certificate of incorporation under the general

law of Maryland, form of stock certificates, of assignment and power of transfer, and a specimen page of transfer book is added. The work is divided into seven parts, dealing respectively with the nature of corporations, how and when corporate life begins, what a corporation may do, how the corporate powers are exercised, the consequences of unauthorized acts, capital stock, and, lastly, the corporation and the state.

The volume will be of most value to the student who intends to practise in Maryland, but it also presents the principles of the law in a way which will also meet the needs of the great majority of students.

*B. O. F.*

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PROBATE REPORTS ANNOTATED: Containing Recent Cases of General Value Decided in the Courts of the Several States on Points of Probate Law. With Notes and References. By GEORGE A. CLEMENT, of the New York Bar, Author of "Clement's Digest of Fire Insurance Decisions," and "A Treatise on Fire Insurance as a Valid Contract." Volume VIII, with index to Volumes I to VIII, inclusive. Pp. li+838. New York: Baker, Voorhis & Company. 1904.

The present series, of which this is the eighth volume, supercedes eight volumes of "American Probate Reports" (1881 to 1896), and was started in 1897. The volumes are produced about a year apart, and contain each one hundred or more recent cases bearing on the passing of property because of the death of the former owner.

As may well be appreciated, the subject is of immense practical importance, as each incoming generation succeeds to the entire real and personal property of its predecessors, four-fifths of which, it is said, passes through the Probate Courts.

Ordinarily no higher mark of confidence could be given a lawyer than the commission of preparing in legal form the instrument which is to determine the disposition of a man's entire estate after he shall have passed away from the scenes of its accumulation. The privileges of a man to direct what shall be done with his wealth after he has gone is now almost universally recognized, in a more or less restricted form, and is one of the most cherished rights of an ordinary man. Unhappily, too often is the intent of the testator defeated because of an ill-consideration of the legal requisites or inapt or obscure language. As the effects of a man's decease on his property are so complex and varied, and present one of the most common heads of judicial inquiry, every lawyer should be as familiar as possible with the law relating thereto.

Nothing can take the place of constant reference to recent